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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
19 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #281 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

The two Dominican governments and various other Dominican groups are weighing the proposals for a solution to the crisis that were submitted by the Organization of American States yesterday.

The proposals were formally submitted to each government by the OAS committee yesterday morning. Later they were submitted to the group of apolitical business and civic leaders known as the "Santiago group." At the same time, the OAS disseminated the proposals to the public at large by means of leaflets distributed by helicopter to all large and medium population centers throughout the country. The OAS-controlled radio station was also employed in this effort.

Rebel leaders were granted their request for "three or four days" to study the proposals, but the OAS committee made clear that it will not wait indefinitely. Immediately after their conference with the OAS committee, rebel leaders Caamano, Aristy, and Cury spoke to a gathering of their followers outside rebel headquarters. Caamano called the OAS proposals "not a solution, but a plan to look for solutions." Rebel Foreign Minister Cury called it "a proposition which we will examine so that we can present our counter-proposals." Aristy said the meeting with the OAS committee was a "victory" for the rebels because their valiant defense of the constitution had finally forced the OAS to "ask for negotiations." He reiterated that the rebels are disposed to "fight to the death."

Despite these brave words, it is evident that the rebels are under mounting pressure from within their own camp to make whatever concessions may be required to bring an end to the country's eight week old political crisis.

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The OAS committee found the atmosphere at rebel headquarters much more conciliatory yesterday than it had been in recent days. Even the crowds on the street outside were less hostile. They shouted for a "solution" instead of the hostile epithets they hurled at the committee on its visit to Caamano headquarters earlier this week.

The influence of hard-line extremists in the rebel camp was much less obvious yesterday and even the rebel radio has become a bit less inflammatory. Firing from the rebel zone was minimal yesterday with only several random incidents involving single shots at US positions. Inter-American troops were not obliged to return the fire on any occasion.

The Imbert government informed the OAS committee that it can accept "almost all" of the proposals. Speaking on behalf of himself and his colleagues, Imbert said that there "might be some points we will need to discuss among ourselves and later with you." He expressed appreciation for the committee's efforts to restore peace to the country. Colonel Benoit, the military member of the junta, made a particularly forceful and emotional statement endorsing the OAS proposal that the Dominican military "return to the barracks." Benoit conceded that military intervention in Dominican politics had been the "curse" of the country and that henceforth it is imperative that the armed forces be apolitical.

The civic and business leaders of the "Santiago group" met with the OAS committee yesterday also. One of the members later stated that there is only one aspect of the OAS proposals with which the group disagrees--the timing of general elections. Whereas the OAS

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committee has proposed that elections be held between six and nine months from the establishment of a new provisional government, the Santiago group feels that elections should not be held for another two years. The group feels that it will take this long for passions to cool and for the non-Communist parties to organize themselves and carry out an effective electoral campaign. The representatives said that their counterparts in Santo Domingo also feel this way.

When asked by the OAS committee for their suggestions as to personnel for a new provisional government, members of the Santiago group declared that they now favor Hector Garcia Godoy for the top position. They added that they understand their colleagues in Santo Domingo also prefer Garcia Godoy, a prominent former diplomat and backer of ex-President Joaquin Balaguer who in recent weeks has tried to avoid any partisan label.

There continue to be no reported instances of pro-rebel disturbances in the interior of the country. Nevertheless, the people are still restive. [REDACTED]

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